

CFS 47 – V. Endorsement and Uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition

Norwegian statement

- Thank you chair,
- The number of food insecure and malnourished is increasing globally, and the world is not on track to meet SDG number 2.
- A systemic, cross sectoral approach is needed to put us back on track -a key global challenge today is to ensure that all people have access to sufficient, safe and healthy food, that is sustainable produced.
- The upcoming UN Food System Summit makes the launch of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition timely to address these needs.
- Norway acknowledges the tremendous amount of work and effort that has been put down in the negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, both from the CFS Secretariat and the members of CFS.
- In our view, bringing together different disciplines under the food system and nutrition approach has been a valuable, but also a difficult task.
- Therefore, the work would have benefited from taking the most recent agreed language from the respective disciplines as a point of departure.
- We should remind ourselves that these guidelines refer to related guidance contained in other policy products developed by CFS as well as by other institutions, and that the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are intended to build upon and complement the work and mandate of other international bodies.
- Moreover, we wish to emphasize that the work of the CFS must uphold the right to adequate food as a key guiding principle in support of food security and nutrition.
- Unfortunately, both the process and in the final version of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition there has been no serious reflection of a human rights perspective.

- As a result, the few references to the right to food do not provide the guidance we would have liked, for a human right based approach to the Food System Summit process
- In parallel our scientific experts have in the 15th HLPE report has provided us with valuable insights on the evolving understanding of food security emphasizing the need to put the right to adequate food in the forefront.
- The report clearly demonstrates that availability is only one component of the broader picture of why hunger and malnutrition persist, and that a person's ability to access enough and healthy food is equally important.
- The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition provide a first step to an integrated, and systemic approach food security and nutrition.
- CFS is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. In this perspective, the role and involvement of the CSM and the PSM is one of CFS' strongest assets, and strengthens the authority of the CFS products.
- We regret that CSM did not participate in the final stretch of the negotiations, and is not in a position to endorse the final outcome.
- Nevertheless, Norway supports the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines.
- We encourage all CFS stakeholders to support and promote the Guidelines at all levels within their constituencies, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms, the dissemination, use, and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.
- Thank you.